

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 15, 16, 23, 24, 27, 29 and 32-34 and allowed claims 8-14, 17-22, 28 and 30. Claims 1-4, 6, 15, 16, 23, 24, 27, 29 and 32-34 are cancelled herein without prejudice, and claims 5, 7, 25 and 26 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 8-14, 17-22, 28 and 30 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

On page 11 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 8-13, 17-22, 28 and 30 are allowed. However, the Office Action Summary indicates that claims 8-14, 17-22, 28 and 30 are allowed.

Applicants respectfully request that the inconsistency regarding allowance of claim 14 be corrected (Office Action Summary indicates that claim 14 is allowed and page 11 of the Office Action does not). It is submitted that since claim 14 is dependent on allowed independent claim 13, claim 14 should be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-4, 6, 15, 16, 23, 24, 27, 29 and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of the following: U.S. Patent No. 5,809,240 (Kumagai), U.S. Patent No. 6,226,392 (Bacus), U.S. Patent No. 6,701,012 (Matthews), U.S. Patent No. 6,357,042 (Srinivasan) and U.S. Patent No. 4,974,173 (Stefik).

As mentioned above, claims 1-4, 6, 15, 16, 23, 24, 27, 29 and 32-34 are cancelled herein without prejudice.

Therefore, withdrawal the rejection is respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT:

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment after Final Rejection because each rejected claim is cancelled herein and doing so places the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

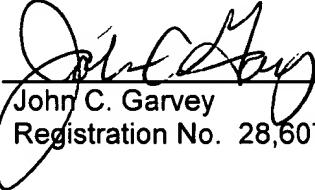
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 11-3-05

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